Benjamin Kandov (109734727)

**(Non-Classical) Guitar Restringing for Non-Luthiers**

**Intro:**

After weeks to months of use, depending on the vigor of the player, inevitably the strings of one’s guitar will sound and feel worse than they did when one first bought them. Like death and taxes, it’s just another sad fact of life. Many, when confronted by it, become intimidated by the task of restringing, or simply immobilized by laziness, letting their strings rust further. But not you, and, for that, you will be rewarded by this lucid, step-by-step tutorial for restringing your non-classical guitar.

**Equipment and Supplies:**

1. Guitar
2. Pack of 6 steel guitar strings (E, A, D, G, B, E)
3. Pliers
4. Dust rag
5. Trash receptacle
6. A flat surface/table
7. Guitar Tuner

**Procedure:**

**Removing Old Strings:**

**a. Identifying a string**

Lay the guitar out on your flat surface so that the strings are facing up and begin eyeing the thickest string on it. This is the low E string, the first string you’ll remove. Notice how one side of it connects to a pane where it is parallel to the other 5 strings. This pane holding all of the strings is called the ***Bridge*** of the guitar. The other side of the low E string, on the ***Headstock*** of the guitar, is tied in some way to, depending on the design of your specific guitar, either a knob-like thing or a bar in a slit in the headstock. The headstock, to be more specific, is the piece of wood on the opposite end of the guitar from the bridge that also holds all 6 of the strings.

**b. Beginning to remove the string**

Figure out which ***Tuning Key*** corresponds to the low E string (it’s usually right by the string’s endpoint on the headstock) by moving the keys in all directions while hitting the low E string with your thumb until the pitch of the sound it’s making starts to change. Tuning keys, by the way, are the 6 turn-able widgets attached to the headstock. They can be turned clockwise or counter-clockwise, and once you find out which tuning key corresponds to your low E string, you should diagnose which turning direction drops low E’s pitch. Keep turning in that direction in order to loosen the string, until the string seems loose enough that, with the help of your pliers, you can untie it from its place on the headstock.

**c. Removing the string, and more**

As you untie the string from the headstock, both by loosening/untying and by employing your pliers, make sure to deposit any string fragments that come loose into your trash receptacle. Once the whole string is extricated from the headstock, start holding up the guitar up on one side so that the back is facing you. Take the low E string and push it through the front of the guitar so that it will come out through the back. You may have to hold the guitar with the front facing up if you have trouble making the string escape the back, perhaps even shake it a bit. Once the string is removed, repeat steps a-b for your other 5 strings in order of descending thickness, and then clean your guitar with your dust rag.

**Inserting New Strings:**

Now that you have a string-less guitar, you are ready to begin equipping your new strings. You will start with low E again, and then repeat these instructions for the rest of the strings, inserting them one after another, in the order A-D-G-B-E. Also notice that these strings are ordered in decreasing thickness.

**a. Inserting a string**

One side of the string won’t be tipped with a round widget. Feed this side through the little holes in the back of the guitar, through what looks like the back of the bridge. If you’re having trouble finding the row of six holes, look at where the bridge is located on the front of the guitar to find where that leads to in the back. Push the string all the way through this hole, until the round widget prevents you from putting it through any further. Now you can pull the bare-tipped part of the string along the **Fret Board** and try tying it to its spot on the headstock. The fret board, by the way, is the long space between the headstock and the guitar body.

**b. Tuning a string**

As you tie the string onto its spot on the headstock, turn its tuning key counterclockwise to tighten it. Notice that as you tighten it, the string will naturally conform to a spot on the fret board. Once the string seems tightened enough, use your tuner to tune the string. Refer to another tutorial for further details on that.

**c.**

Your guitar should now be strung. Enjoy!